The Field Museum

Natural News

Weekly Staff Newsletter
October 19, 2001

In Memorium: Zbigniew Yastrzebski

We have just learned that Zbigniew Yastrzebski, long-time illustrator for the Field Museum, died in July. Zbigniew was born in Nazi-occupied Poland; his mother, nine-months pregnant, was placed in a line-up and beaten. His family managed to eke out a living during and after the war, and Zbigniew completed most of his schooling in Poland. At some time he and his mother emigrated to Chicago, and Zbigniew earned an MFA at the University of Chicago. Shortly thereafter he began his decades-long association with the Museum. He also taught scientific illustration at the School of the Art Institute and published a well-received book on technique. His domestic achievements were no less significant: Zbigniew lived with his mother and cared for her every day of her life.

When the computer revolution moved technical illustration off the page and onto the screen, Zbigniew spent many weekends at the

Continued next page

FIELD NOTES

October 19-October 26

Staff/Volunteer Events

Yoga
- Wednesday, 5:00, Maori House

Aerobics Class
- Tuesday, 5 p.m., Ground Floor
- Thursday, 5 p.m., Ground Floor

Green Sheet Meeting
- Wednesday, 3 p.m. FP&O Conference Room.

Public/Campus Events

Cleopatra: From History to Myth
New Discoveries Lecture
By Susan Walker of the British Museum
Saturday, October 20
2 p.m.

Psychoanalytic Perspectives on Picture Books for Young Children
Dr. Ellen Handler Spitz, Professor of Art History, University of Maryland
Tuesday, October 23
6 p.m.

The Natural News is published by the Human Resources Department.

Submissions can be emailed to Mark Schmeltzer (mschmeltzer@fmnh.org) Or delivered to him via interoffice mail to the Office of Institutional Advancement. The deadline for next week's issue is WEDNESDAY, October 24 at NOON.

Yastrzebski, continued

Museum, adding computer illustration to his repertoire. His increasing knowledge of e-everything won him a place on the first committee assembled to define the Museum's Internet presence.

At around the same time, Zbigniew began to see a realistic possibility of establishing his own studio. Adept at both traditional illustration and drawing with a computer, he had some early success in the advertising industry. When he left the Museum, in the late nineties, he concentrated on building his studio practice. In July, he was discovered by one of his former students, at the computer. Uncharacteristically, Zbigniew missed a deadline.

Memories are fungible. My first robust memory of Zbigniew has the clarity of the eastern sky outside his window. Some forgotten errand had taken me to his office. Without prefatory comment, Zbigniew spread a sheaf of illustrations across his desk and asked, "Which is art?" He waited for an answer. He inquired into my reasoning. He then terminated my half-baked responses with: "All you have told me is that you like lines. You haven't told me anything about art." His cool intellect had to find nourishment on the margins of his service work, but it was perhaps that intellect that enabled Zbigniew to survive more than the usual allottment of difficulties and displacements, and live a comprehensive life. He pushed himself, was often sad, liked motorcycles, would occasionally dance a salsa after a regulation shot of vodka, and never lost the sheen of European manners, despite shaving his head and getting a tattoo the length of his forearm. His physiognomy was complex. He will be missed.

Marjorie Pannell,
Library

Medallion School Holiday Program

It is not too late to sign your child up for the Medallion School Holiday Program!! This program will be offered on four School Holidays, as well as possible days during the Winter Break. The four Holidays are:

Veteran's Day-November 12, 2001
President's Day-February 18, 2002
Pulaski Day-March 4, 2002
Good Friday-March 29, 2002

In order to sign up for the first day, you must fill out a registration form by Wednesday, October 10 and return it to the Human Resources department. We encourage you to sign up for all four programs at one time. If you do so, we will implement payroll deductions so that you may pay for all four days by December 1, 2001. We will also accept sign ups for the later days at a later time. The cost per program is $50 per child, per day, but the Museum will supplement 50% of the cost, only charging you $25 per day, per child.

You may pick up a registration packet in the Human Resources department. If you are interested in a program over the Winter Break, please contact Heather Metz in Human Resources at ext. 7275 with your dates of interest.

Heather Metz,
Human Resources

Deepest thanks to all involved in CLEOPATRA!

We have a spectacular exhibit and a wonderful opportunity to share a fascinating story with the people of Chicago and our other visitors.

John McCarter,
President & CEO

Increased Security Procedures at Field Museum

Since the attacks of September 11, The Field Museum has increased security procedures for our staff, volunteers and visitors. We want to thank everyone for their patience and cooperation in our efforts to provide you with a secure atmosphere.

These updates include procedures in effect in the mailroom. These new procedures are not a response to any direct threat; all of our new procedures are intended to provide us with a safe and secure work environment.

Mail without a return address or unknown recipient has typically been forwarded to the Public Relations Department for distribution. This will no longer be our practice. All mail without a return address or an unknown recipient will now be sent to Protection Services for inspection and opening. Once the letter or package can be identified, it will be forwarded to the appropriate recipient. This will eliminate any cause for concern that you may have regarding our mail service.

Here are a few tips in identifying suspicious mail or packages:

- No return address
- Package of unusual weight or shape
- Packages marked "personal" or "confidential"
- A city or state in the postmark that does not match the return address

If you receive a suspicious piece of mail or package:

- Handle with care and do not shake or bump
- Isolate and look for indicators (powder, oil or grease stains, etc...)
- Don't open, smell or taste
- Call our Protection Services Department at ext. 7985 or Jolynn Parchen, Safety Manager at ext. 7278

If you have any questions please contact Protection Services at ext. 7985 or Human Resources at ext. 7271.

Sam Burns,
Human Resources

Halloween Trick or Treat Bags

The Department of Protection Services has reflective trick or treat bags available for all staff and volunteers to bring home for their kids. Please stop by the Protection Services Office between now and Halloween to pick yours up.

Rachel Kurth,
Protection Services

Temporary Exhibition Ticket Policy

As we come upon a new wave of popular ticketed temporary exhibitions at the Museum, I want to reiterate the policy regarding fulfillment of internal ticket requests.

It is the goal of the Museum to not only put on temporary exhibitions that will be enjoyed by our visitors, but to meet revenue goals set forth for each ticketed show. Ticket allocations for advanced sales are made to various departments based upon a formula to maximize revenues, while still allowing for a number of complementary tickets, primarily for members and Education groups.

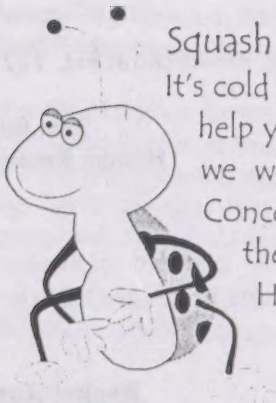
Any department requesting tickets to a temporary exhibition during the Museum's public hours must reimburse the Museum's operating budget for the cost of that ticket. Departments will be charged the exhibition-only portion of a ticket (i.e., $6.00 for an adult regular exhibition ticket; $10.00 for Cleopatra). These tickets should be purchased through the Group Sales department.

For those departments that have tickets allocated to them for advance sales, you should utilize those tickets as part of your request. However, if you do not have, or are requesting tickets above and beyond your allocation, those tickets must be paid for—complimentary tickets will not be given out beyond those budgeted for.

All Docket group members receive an allocation of complimentary tickets at the beginning of each show to be given out at each member's discretion. Any employee needing complimentary tickets during public hours should go through their area Director or Vice-President. Additional complementary tickets will only be given out upon requests made directly by an area Director or Vice-President. These requests should be made to Diane White.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Jim Croft,
Finance &
Administration



Squash The Bug!

It's cold and flu season once again so the Human Resources Department would like to help you fight off that nasty flu-bug. On November 5th from 10:00 am – 11:30am, we will be having our annual flu-clinic in Lecture Hall 2. Two nurses from Concentra Medical Centers will be here to provide the immunizations. The cost of the shot is $17.00 and must be paid on the day of the clinic. Please call the Human Resources Department at ext. 7271 to reserve your time.

Cartouche in Stores

This Holiday Season order a very special person on your list their own Personalized Cartouche Pendant!

Visit The Field Museum Stores to see examples of Cartouche Pendants personalized and styled after the nameplates and seals used by ancient Egyptian pharaohs. Each cartouche has an English name or word translated into Egyptian hieroglyphics. Your order is hand-made in the bazaar known as 'Khan-el-Khalily' in the heart of Cairo, Egypt; from Egypt, it is then directly shipped to you, or as a gift, before the holidays. Orders are quality custom pieces, and are available in Silver or 18K Gold. Styles include three to seven symbols, Open (cut-out) or Solid setting, gold chains are optional. Prices vary, based on your order. All cartouches are packaged with a copy of the hieroglyphic alphabet.

Place your orders not later then December 1. Large quantities should be ordered early. Please ask for an Assistant Store Manager for details.

Christine Fiene,
Museum Stores

PHONE FACTS

Do you know how to . . .

Locate message sent

- If you have sent a message to another subscriber and would like to know if they have listened to it, press 3 in the main menu for message locator, then 1 for the messages sent.

Locate message received

- If you have several messages in your mailbox and you would like to locate a message from a specific subscriber, press 3 in the main menu for message locator, then 2 for messages received, enter either the mailbox number of the subscriber the expected message is from or press one to locate all messages from outside callers. You can also press the # key to dial by name.

Sending messages

- Rather than calling a coworker's extension, send a message by pressing 2 at your main voicemail menu. The coworker can then reply to your message without any direct contact which will free up a lot of time to work with customers, etc.

If you need further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact Anita.

Anita L. Purnell,
Telephone Administrator

City of Chicago
Richard M. Daley
Mayor

Chicago Public Library

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www.chicagopubliclibrary.org

October 15, 2001

Mr. Mark Larson
Manager, Educational Partnerships
The Field Museum
1400 S. Lake Shore Drive
Chicago, Illinois 60605-2499

Dear Mark:

Congratulations on a marvelous evening and thank you for inviting me to be *In the Company of Readers* on Saturday evening. What a perfectly appropriate title for the terrific collection of people and programs you assembled at the Field.

On behalf of all of us at the Chicago Public Library and indeed, all librarians, thank you for inviting our librarians to attend and thank you for helping to create a culture of reading in Chicago.

Best regards,

Mary A. Dempsey

Cc: John McCarter, Field Museum ✓
Bernie Nowakowski
Liz McChesney

Chicago Public Library: READ, LEARN, DISCOVER!

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

CITY OF CHICAGO

RICHARD M. DALEY
MAYOR

October 5, 2001

Mr. John McCarter
President
The Field Museum of Natural History
1400 South Lake Shore Drive
Chicago, Illinois 60605

Dear Mr. McCarter:

As Mayor and on behalf of the City of Chicago, I want to thank you for participating in the *Make it Chicago* campaign. By extending the Chicago Museum Week 2-for-1-admission offer at The Field Museum of Natural History, you have joined 16 other museums, as well as many hotels, restaurants, theaters and other businesses in this important effort.

With your participation, we are encouraging Chicagoans and visitors to enjoy our city's cultural offerings. During this difficult time for our nation, it is crucial that our cultural and tourism communities come together to strengthen each other and the many individuals and families that these industries support.

I thank you again for your willingness to take part in this program. Best wishes.

Sincerely,

Richard M Daley

Mayor

Sofa Crew to Auction Suite Home Chicago Exhibit

Congratulations to Jeff Simpson, Beth Adams, Encarnacion Teruel and Bill Ryan—or, "The Sofa Crew" as they are affectionately called for their Suite Home Chicago exhibit "History of Chicago Theater." The piece is one of a select few to be offered at a city-sponsored auction this Saturday, October 20, 2001, at The Chicago Theatre. The proceeds from the auction will be donated to The League of Chicago Theatres. The piece has been signed by both local theater greats like Bernie Sahlins and Mike Nuseeubeum, Frank Galati and the Steppenwolf Theater Ensemble as well as international theater stars like Chitea Rivera and Terrence McNally.

The Sofa Crew is an organization made up of theatre and museum professionals. If you have any questions about the auction or the Sofa Crew—don't hesitate to contact Bill Ryan.

Included in this picture are Jeff Simpson (FP&O), Beth Adams, Encarnacion Teruel, & Bill Ryan-(Education), along with such notable celebrities as: Bernie Sahlins-Founder Second City; Marcy and Denis Zacek -recipients of 2001 Tony for excellence in Regional Theater; Hollis Resnik - Jeff Awarded actress; Mike Nasuebeum- Jeff Awarded actor, Father McCaughlin-Monsignor, Holy Name Cathedral, Richard Christiansen -Chief Theater Critic Chicago Tribune; Tony and Tina - Tony and Tina's Wedding; and Marge Halpern-Executive Director of The League of Chicago Theaters.

Bill Ryan,
Education

News From Museum Campus

New Adler Hours—As of Monday, October 8, the building hours for the Adler Planetarium are as follows:

For the public:

Daily 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Far Out Fridays 9:30 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

There will be extended public hours during spring break, summer and certain holidays. These extended hours will be announced at a later date.

For staff:

Friday through Tuesday 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday and Thursday 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Christina Breslow,
Museum Campus Chicago

Academic Affairs

The Field Museum Celebrates "One Book, One Chicago"

Museum staff were invited to help commemorate the Chicago's first city-wide book report on "To Kill a Mockingbird" by participating in a group discussion headed by the Center for Cultural Understanding and Change and supported by the Human Resources department. The discussion was held in the Maori house on October 13th.

The forum was led by Dr. Raymond Codrington and Rosa Cabrera. Among the topics discussed were why was the book chosen, race, class, and ethnicity, the importance of learning to value differences, and the relevance of the book today. Helping to support the discussion outside of the group meeting was an intranet chat put together by Peter Lang, manager of web publishing.

Thank you to everyone one who supported forum.

Meganne Lube,
CCUC

More About Mercury Conference

Last week's *Academic Affairs* described a meeting sponsored by NASA and the Lunar and Planetary Institute held at the Museum on October 4 and 5. The "Mercury: Space Environment, Surface, and Interior" meeting was co-organized by Meenakshi Wadhwa (Department of Geology) and Mark Robinson (Department of Geological Sciences, Northwestern University). The meeting received coverage in the *Chicago Sun-Times*, "Signs of ice detected on Mercury." The article by Jim Ritter stated that the meeting of 100 Mercury researchers from around the world was the first major scientific conference on the subject in 15 years and part of the renewed attention being given to one of the most mysterious planets in our solar system.

New technologies have helped rekindle research interest in the planet nearest our sun, according to the *Sun Times*. These include new computers and software to mine the data sent back by the Mariner 10 space probe of the mid 1970's, the use of radio telescopes that indicated the formation of ice near Mercury's north and south poles, and perhaps most significant, NASA's $256 million MESSENGER mission—an unmanned spacecraft that will orbit the planet in 2009 to provide the first view of the entire planet and provide detailed information about Mercury's crust.

As the article described, a major debate concerns pockets of ice that may have existed inside deep craters on Mercury's surface. NASA believes the MESSENGER mission will solve the ice controversy, in addition to several other questions.

A letter to John McCarter applauding Field Museum staff and the success of the meeting from co-organizer Mark Robinson appears below. If you would like to see a copy of the *Chicago Sun Times* article, please contact Mark Schmeltzer in Institutional Advancement at ext. 7123.

Mark Schmeltzer,
Institutional Advancement

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY

Department of Geological Science

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Evanston, Illinois 60208-215
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Mr. John McCarter, President
The Field Museum
1400 S. Lake Shore Dr.
Chicago, IL 60605

October 9, 2001

Dear Mr. McCarter,

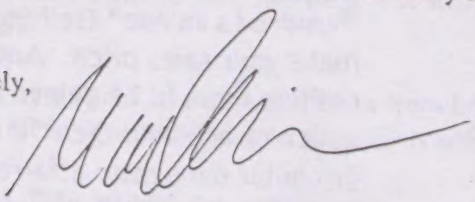
I am writing this letter to express my appreciation for the Field Museum's support of the Mercury meeting held October 4th and 5th. The meeting was a great success largely due to the conscientious and professional support of the Field Museum staff. Everything went smoothly -- the AV setup and equipment, climate control in the meeting room, refreshments during the meeting, and the reception. At the end of the meeting I received countless compliments from the attendees including phrases such "set a new standard for meetings", "best reception ever at a meeting", "great setup", and "simply fantastic". In particular I would like to point out the exceptional efforts by Elaine Zeiger (Geology Department), Carlita Wilds (Special Events), and Mentee Teah (Audio Visual). Additionally, Meenakshi Wadhwa was instrumental in the meeting planning, stage, serving as coordinator between the Field Museum and the Lunar and Planetary Institute.

Scientifically, the meeting was also a great success. We were able to bring together over 90 attendees from around the world from a diversity of fields (i.e. astronomy, geology, geochemistry, space physics) that resulted in a series of very

productive interdisciplinary discussions. This meeting was a great lead-up to the planned future missions to Mercury (NASA's **MESSENGER** orbiter mission and European Space Agency's **BepiColombo** mission). In particular, the meeting helped the planetary science community to focus on the most important questions that we hope to address with these missions regarding the origin and formation of Mercury and our Solar System. Contributed papers from this meeting are anticipated to be published next year in a Special Issue of the journal *Meteoritics and Planetary Science* and will provide a record of the scientific contributions of this meeting.

Thanks again for all of the professional support provided by the Field Museum and for making it feasible to have the Mercury meeting at such an excellent venue.

Sincerely,



Mark Robinson
Co-organizer, "Mercury: Space Environment, Surface, Interior" meeting
Research Assistant Professor, Northwestern University
1847 Sheridan Road, Locy Hall 309
Evanston, IL 60208

The Natural News and Natural News Online are published weekly by the Human Resources Department.

Submissions can be emailed to the editor (mschmeltzer@fieldmuseum.org) or delivered via interoffice mail to Mark Schmeltzer, Office of Institutional Advancement. Electronic submissions are preferred.

The deadline for each week's issue is Wednesday at NOON.

And don't forget to visit the colorful, easy-to-navigate online version of Natural News every week on the Museum's Intranet:

http://intranet1/natural_news/

You can also access back issues of Natural News on this site.

Baker's Corner

By Paul Baker

I'm sure that every language has metaphors and colloquialisms galore using the vocabulary of local foods and/or produce. In America, "she's the apple of his eye" but not everyone's "cup of tea." We work for our "bread and butter" and even know "which side the bread is buttered on." We might end up "in the soup" or be "in a stew" over something. I, myself, have been given "the raspberries" and had my "goose cooked."

Pretty lame stuff. We sound more like a grocery list or the teacher rattling off the seven food groups. In France the use of culinary ingredients in daily speech is a bit more colorful and adventurous. People do not faint, they "fall into the apples." They do not get so hungry that they "could eat a horse," they go ahead and eat the horse (chevaline; horse butcher shop).

In matters of the heart, meat words figure prominently. You can address your beloved as "mon poussin" (my young chicken) or "petit canard" (little duck). If you're summoning him or her in a friendly fashion you can say "amène ta viande!" (get your meat over here!).

Vegetables and fruits also figure in phrases. Your "petit chou" (little cabbage) may have a "cœur d'artichaut" (artichoke heart; be fickle), and may make you "faire le poireau (make like the leek; stand you up) and "aller aux fraises" (go to the strawberries; go off with someone else). It's all over, pal—"les carottes sont cuites" (the carrots are cooked), in which case you'll most likely "tomber dans les pommes" (fall into the apples) as I mentioned above. "Une bonne poire" (a good pear) is anything but good—he/she is a sucker who doesn't use his/her "citron" (lemon; head). And if the brain in that head is losing all reason or overheating, it may cause its owner to start "sucrer les fraises" (sugaring the strawberries; doing an unnecessary act)—the berries in France being so sweet they need no added sugar.

"La vie est douce" (life is sweet) and so the French language reflects this: "c'est du nougat" (it's of the nut-paste) means something that is "dead easy" while "du flan" (of the custard) reflects the fact that something is "hogwash." Life can be savory, too: "le gratin parisien" is not a "crumb-topped dish baked in Paris" but the high society of the capital.

Even business vocabulary gets the occasional trip to the market. When you "vendre sa salade" (sell your lettuce) you make your sales pitch. And if there is nothing more to be gained by any business action of any kind then "il n'y a rien à grignoter dans cette affaire" (there's just nothing left to nibble on with this business).

Food vocabulary ends up in French idioms because it is inside the French people's heads all of the time until life and food become interchangeable. In a taxi from the Gare de Lyon train station to my hotel near the Eiffel Tower, my conversation with the driver turned from what to say when someone sneezes to what I should order the next time I'm in a bistro. As we wove through the traffic on the quai d'Orsay he exhorted me to get the "tête du veau" (veal head, literally) with sauce "gerebisch? (never did figure that one out). I must have furrowed my brow in his rear-view mirror at the image of that dish, for his next suggestion was more civilized—paupiettes du veau (also called "veal olives")—flattened, stuffed slices of veal (delicious!). He said that if one eats like the French "tu as le pêche" (you have the peach; are in good shape). Otherwise, "tu pédales dans la choucroute" (you pedal in the sauerkraut; are lost, directionless).

Plum good idea.

BOOKWMN Speaks
By Paula Ramos

We have heard the thundering sounds in the halls of our Marble Maiden by the Lake and we have heard the call of the wild. No, the animals have not escaped from the dioramas; school groups are here; we are glad and welcome the thousands of children; they have been missed! We all begin a new chapter in an old beloved book; a new and promising school year!

As parents, we have an opportunity to educate our children. What teachers we become when we have no concern for teaching. Lead to read by example; remembering preaching is not teaching.

Daniel Pennac inspires the teacher and reader in all of us with his book, *Better Than Life.* "Those of us who read and say we want to spread the love of reading, much of the time we'd rather be commentators, interpreters, analysts, critics, biographers, exegetes of works silenced by our pious respect for their greatness. Imprisoned in the fortress of our expertise, the language of books is replaced by our own language. Instead of letting the intelligence of stories speak through us, we turn to our own intelligence and speak for the stories. We have stopped being the messengers of literature and turned into the fervent protectors of a temple whose miracles we praise with the very words that close its doors. You must read! You must read!"

Please CLIP and POST, the words of truth from below, Mr. Pennac's work of genius, THE READER'S BILL OF RIGHTS. Your refrigerator at home is where they should be; for all to see!

1. THE RIGHT TO NOT READ
2. THE RIGHT TO SKIP PAGES
3. THE RIGHT NOT TO READ NOT TO FINISH
4. THE RIGHT TO REREAD
5. THE RIGHT TO READ ANY THING
6. THE RIGHT TO ESCAPISM
7. THE RIGHT TO READ ANYWHERE
8. THE RIGHT TO BROWSE
9. THE RIGHT TO READ OUT LOUD
10. THE RIGHT TO NOT DEFEND YOUR TASTE

Better Than Life is a great gift for new parents and serves as a refresher course for those of us who have been parenting for years and years. This important book can be found in the LIT THEORY section of any large bookstore. An even better idea; support those deserving small bookstore owners, around the corner from you, by ordering it from them with this ISBN 0-88910-484-0. This book should be in every home library especially if you have people in your home who are approaching their teenage years.

"Now he is a reclusive adolescent in his room, faced with a book he cannot read. His desire to be elsewhere creates a smeary film between his eyes and the page. He is sitting in front of the window, the door closed behind him. Stuck on page 48....If only he could remember what happened on the previous 48 pages!"

Read aloud to your family. Mr. Pennac shares this message, "He who reads aloud exposes himself to whoever hears him. If his reading becomes an act of empathy with the audience and the book and its author, if he can communicate the necessity of writing by touching our deepest need for stories, then books will open their doors and those who felt excluded from reading will follow him inside."

"We build houses because we are alive; we write books because we know we are mortal. We live in packs because we are gregarious; we read because we know we are alone."—Daniel Pennac

UNO
The United Neighborhood Organization
954 W. Washington Blvd., 3rd Floor • Chicago, Illinois 60607
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uno-online.org

October 10,2001

Ms. Beth Crownover
Field Museum of Natural History
1400 S. Lake Shore Dr.
Chicago, Il.60605

Dear Ms. Crownover:

On behalf of the United Neighborhood Organization (UNO) and the over 1350 parents and children from the "Take 10" program in attendance, I would like to thank you for inviting us to the event "Celebracion" on October 6, 2001.

As always, your attention to detail was very helpful in making the day a success. All had positive comments regarding the activities of the day, and especially enjoyed the music.

It is through collaborative efforts like this that UNO is able to impact local community residents and promote education and parental involvement. I attribute this success to the warm hospitality and openness of the personnel as well as the wonderful environment the Museum has provided.

Once again, thank you. I look forward to working with you on future projects and events.

Sincerely,

Myrna Fragoso
Associate Director, Education